

From: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)

Bcc:



Subject: Harsimus Branch Abandonment Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting

Date: Friday, September 25, 2020 1:52:00 PM

Attachments: [Harsimus Branch Abandonment Project_Consulting Parties Meeting_Agenda 20201027 Final.pdf](#)
[image002.emz](#)
[image003.png](#)

To: Section 106 Consulting Parties

From: Alan Tabachnick, Historic Preservation Specialist, Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis

Re: Invitation to Section 106 Consulting Parties Virtual Meeting on Oct. 27, 2020 re: Conrail's proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch in Jersey City, NJ, Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X).

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is hosting a "Virtual" Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Consulting Parties meeting, on October 27, 2020, in the pending rail-line abandonment proceeding referenced above, in which Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) has proposed to abandon the Harsimus Branch rail line in Jersey City, NJ. The meeting will be held virtually due to ongoing safety concerns related to COVID-19 and will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to continue consultation and to move into the Resolution of Adverse Effects phase, Step 4 of the NHPA's Section 106 process. The agenda for the meeting is attached to this email. OEA will be presenting a summary of the cultural resource studies to date. Please see below for links to those studies:

Notice of Intent to Initiate Case (March 2008)

<https://dcms-external.s3.amazonaws.com/MPD/78432/85257CA7006C955B8525740A00775CDD/221808.PDF>

Notice of Exemption (APE Report is attached as Appendix A) (January 2009)

<https://dcms-external.s3.amazonaws.com/MPD/78432/85257CA7006C955B852575370053C8F3/224298.PDF>

Cultural Resources Identification Report (May 2017)

<https://dcms-external.s3.amazonaws.com/MPD/62491/258688F3EFADEE3985258116006EE98E/39672.pdf>

Cultural Resources Identification Report Addendum (October 2018)

<https://dcms-external.s3.amazonaws.com/MPD/62491/D7588919E40D596785258324004F7FF5/46660.pdf>

Cultural Resources Effects Report (March 2019)

<https://dcms-external.s3.amazonaws.com/MPD/62491/DF1AE62735B66773852583CC004D7711/39674.pdf>

Cultural Resources Effects Report Addendum (November 2019)

https://dcms-external.s3.amazonaws.com/DCMS_External_PROD/1573851472371/47353.pdf

Additionally, OEA will be presenting a draft Memorandum of Agreement for review by the consulting parties. The draft MOA will include a number of mitigation items to resolve the project's adverse effect, and we are very interested in hearing from the consulting parties regarding these proposed mitigation items, and potentially others that could be considered. Approximately two weeks prior to the meeting, OEA will be circulating the draft MOA to all the consulting parties, which will initiate the formal 30-day review period. The meeting on October 27th falls approximately mid-way during that review period.

During the meeting, the consulting parties will have the opportunity to submit both oral and written comments. Detailed access information for the meeting will be provided after participants complete and submit the registration form (link provided below).

We encourage your participation in the meeting and have allocated sufficient time for each individual to "hold the floor" for an allotted 5 minutes. After the time expires, our moderator will ask you to conclude your remarks so that additional participants can speak.

Virtual Meeting Technology

In preparation for the "virtual" meeting, you will be sent a technology survey via email that will solicit input from you on your access to various internet platforms and tools. We will use the survey results to make both attendance and participation at the meeting as easy and effective as possible.

Meeting Registration (Required)

If you wish to participate virtually in the live meeting:

- **Please use the following link to complete the registration form no later than 5:00 pm on October 26th, 2020:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7jDLZK7GQSZ1oy44bB-gT_6B9hBU_7XTg0o50ovITAMO5SA/viewform
- The day before the meeting (October 26, 2020), you will receive an email with meeting login information.

Meeting Platform Tutorials (Optional)

After submitting the registration form, you will be emailed information about optional virtual meeting platform tutorials, during which you can troubleshoot potential technology issues and/or familiarize yourself with the meeting platform. You may explore the platform independently by entering an open "test room." Or, you may request a one-on-one tutorial with the meeting's technology coordinator, whose contact information will be provided in the registration confirmation email. The tutorial links *are not* the same as the meeting link.

Please note that the meeting will be recorded so that we accurately document everyone's comments.

We look forward to meeting with you and hearing your comments, especially your thoughts on resolving adverse effects on historic properties as a result of this proposal.

Alan Tabachnick

Historic Preservation Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
Office: 202-245-0367
Cell: 215-370-3579

Harsimus Branch Abandonment Project
Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting | Draft Agenda

October 27, 2020 | 7 – 9 PM

Location: RingCentral virtual platform, meeting link to be provided on 10/26

- I. Welcome, Ground Rules & Purpose (5 min) – *Justice & Sustainability Associates and Surface Transportation Board*
- II. Presentation (30 min)
 - Project Site History – *Richard Grubb & Associates*
 - Section 106 Review Process – *Surface Transportation Board*
 - Resolving Adverse Effects – *Surface Transportation Board*
- III. Comment Period (85 min) – *Justice & Sustainability Associates*
 - Each person wishing to make a comment will be allowed up to 5 minutes
- IV. Adjourn – *Justice & Sustainability Associates*